

65-7572

65-7572-236

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the Director

George:

Certain actions were requested by the Office of the Director in recent weeks and, according to our records, have not been fully answered. It is quite possible they have been overtaken or have been satisfied, but to bring our records up to date, I should appreciate a brief word from you on the status of a study to set forth guidelines for employee authorship of articles for publication.

L. K. White

ExDir:HK:jrf

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65-7153

6 December 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Deaths of Agency Personnel

STAT

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. The following information was compiled for possible press inquiries:

STAT

SIGNED

George F. Moran

cc: ExDir-Compt

65-5860
J.W.

4 October 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Letters Sent to President Johnson

1. This memorandum, written at the request of the Executive Director-Comptroller, is for information only.
2. During September, Peter Jessup, assistant to McGeorge Bundy, sent this office 13 letters mailed to President Johnson containing comments on CIA. Twelve of these were critical, and one expressed embarrassment for the Nation while admitting "the importance of intelligence activities."
3. Attached are relevant quotations from the letters. Tab A quotes the text of the letter expressing embarrassment at the denials which have been issued about intelligence activities. Tab B quotes excerpts from letters calling for the President to "abolish" the Agency. Tab C quotes excerpts from letters occasioned by developments in Singapore, the Dominican Republic, and Pakistan. Tab D quotes excerpts from letters occasioned by newspaper columns and editorials critical of CIA.
4. In a memorandum dated 14 September covering one batch of six letters, Mr. Jessup stated in part:

"An increasing number of letters addressed to the President concerning CIA are routed to me for reply. It is difficult to get any positive ruling as to what should or should not be answered. The President himself is on record as wanting all mail answered without delay. This, of course, is impossible and bitter experience has shown that replies in many instances open up a permanent useless correspondence with all sorts of nuts and near nuts. In the attached batch, most of the writers are sounding off..."

"It is difficult to gauge whether an innocuous acknowledgement doesn't offend the writer more than no reply at all. It is impossible to lay bare the facts and straighten out erroneous conceptions. [redacted] suggested the only possible reply to (one) letter to be roughly as follows: 'It is gratifying to know that there are citizens who feel so strongly and will take the trouble to concern themselves with problems that are besetting all of us,' etc. etc.... However, you know what a Pandora's box is opened by such a reply, and the risk is run of the individual turning the reply over to the press.

STAT

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"As you know, the State Department system of mailing in bulk official releases on subjects, particularly Vietnam, infuriates letter writers, especially intelligent ones. You can't win; you can only try to keep the score down."

5. Mr. Jessup's comment that nothing is generally gained by answering such letters is well taken. Certainly a cryptic telegram sent to the President on 19 September by [redacted] deserves STAT no reply:

"Your present use of maser transmitter to cloak past CIA activity in Chicago is illegal and inhumane. Moreover this prostitutes the FBI."

[redacted]

STAT

[redacted]
Assistant to the Director

Attachments
Tabs A-D

cc: DCI
ExDir-Compt

TAB

INTELLIGENCE NECESSARY

"As an ordinary citizen of our country, a housewife and mother, I feel compelled to write you of my growing feelings of embarrassment for this nation. If I am to believe what is reported in the press, we are lying publicly and I cringe.

"I refer to incidents such as our denial of promised support for the Bay of Pigs invasion, the U-2 planes over Russia and the denial of charges of CIA bribery in Singapore.

"Realizing the importance of intelligence activities for our country, I feel strongly that having been 'caught at it,' we don't need to issue denials, in a word, lie.

"What is the purpose of defending the honor of our country on the fields of battle when, afterwards, there is no honor to cherish?"

Most respectfully yours,



STAT

TAB

ABOLISH CIA

"Isn't it time to abolish the CIA? It is doing untold harm to the country, and very little good.

"My own information on Vietnam, Cuba and Santo Domingo, from the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and several other publications, has proved better in the event than that furnished to the last three Presidents by the CIA, the State Department and Thomas Mann. And the cost is under \$150 a year.

"Further, none of my sources has ever disgraced the United States, as the CIA has done repeatedly."

[Redacted] STAT

"A thing that angers me particularly is the irresponsible and immoral activity of the C.I.A. This monstrous bureaucracy seems to repudiate all the noble principles upon which the U.S. was founded... If you would use your influence to get this infamous and ineffective agency abolished, Americans for generations to come would praise your name."

[Redacted] STAT

"May I take this opportunity of suggesting that the C.I.A. be abolished?... President Kennedy's Bay of Pigs fiasco was an outstanding example of C.I.A. blundering and misinformation."

[Redacted] STAT

TAB

SINGAPORE, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PAKISTAN

"Yesterday when I heard that a CIA official had been caught trying to buy information from a Singapore intelligence officer, I thought 'Well, there goes more of our overseas image.'... Why didn't Mr. McCloskey check with Mr. Rusk before issuing a lie for all the world to hear and laugh? Why did my 18 year old son say this morning, 'great country we've got Mom!'"

[Redacted] STAT

"Reference to Mr. Karnow's article in the Washington Post on CIA activities in the Far East...I cannot express how disgusting and detestable I find these activities to be."

[Redacted] STAT

"Isn't it long overdue that something be done to disqualify the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency? The removal of this organization 'out of existence' is surely urgent.

"It seems to me that they have disqualified themselves by the methods they have used in various countries, Singapore, Vietnam, and finally Santo Domingo...."

[Redacted] STAT

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"I was shocked to read in the newspaper that our State Department and CIA officials have attempted to bribe or 'buy off' two of the leading anti-communist generals of the Dominican Republic in an apparent attempt to give the control of the country to the Communist rebels."

[Redacted] STAT

"I have been horrified to read of the betrayal of Pakistan by your administration. I understand from reliable sources that the C.I.A. actually encouraged India to attack Pakistan."

[Redacted] STAT

TAB

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING ENCLOSED

"The neighbors and I read and discussed (several columns) and you know what Mr. President? They agreed unanimously that these couple of items more succinctly put into words their selfsame feelings than if they had written to express them individually." (Enclosed column by Richard Sternes on Singapore which began: "The vast, bumbling bureaucracy of the Central Intelligence Agency lately has been revealed as the profligate disbursing agent of millions of unaccountable U.S. dollars.")

[Redacted] STAT

"After reading the enclosed article by Mr. Canham, I am shocked to think that our high officials (Mr. Rusk) are stooping so low." (Enclosed CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR column which stated: "The State Department has had to admit that an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency offered a bribe of \$3.3 million some five years ago to Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore...This is disgraceful. It raises many questions: Will we ever know just what the CIA has been doing these past years?")

[Redacted] STAT

"I have been much concerned about the activities of the CIA and am enclosing an editorial from our daily paper that expresses what I have been thinking probably better than I could." (Enclosed editorial which began: "Although it happened under the directorship of Allen Dulles back in the Eisenhower administration, the Central Intelligence Agency once more has been the source of American embarrassment and humiliation. There can be no doubt that the CIA is a vital government operation. There is every reason to believe that, on the working 'level,' the CIA is the equal of any intelligence organization in the world, with brave, dedicated and intelligent operatives. But with the U2 incident, the Bay of Pigs and the now resurrected Singapore episode, the confidence of the American people in the administrative level of the CIA is badly shaken.")

[Redacted] STAT

- 2 -

"The cloak and dagger activities of the CIA at times appear to be a fourth branch of government, but not answerable to the other three. It is both frightening and fantastic.

"More disturbing than the fiascos of the CIA, however, is this government's lack of a positive foreign policy save that of anti-Communism." (Enclosed SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE column which stated: "The Central Intelligence Agency is apparently involved in what news stories described as an episode embarrassing to the American Embassy in Saigon, with at least three CIA officers reportedly declared persona non grata by the Vietnam government.")

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